



Dawn



15 0 3

Chapter 1 by Dominic Pickston

OK, I'm gonna give you the rundown of what's happening I am sitting around a camp fire, in the middle of the forest, with 5 people I've known for about 10 minutes. The smart thing to do would be for one of us to kill everyone else and take their stuff, yet we are all drawn together for the same reason, we all have nowhere else to be.

The world is strange. I used to live with my tribe, completely unaware that there are possibly hundreds or thousands of tribes out there who are completely unaware of each other's existence. As you can imagine these people have their differences. In fact we all have only one thing in common, from birth we are told to never go outside the boundaries of our tribe, never go into the forest.

Right, I'm getting sidetracked, the people I'm with, OK

There is Sam, a fiercely independent warrior with a bit of a superiority complex. Her people are all about being proud warriors, and are trained from birth to fight. She left because she was used to being above everyone else, but one day a man called Dez showed up and humiliated her in front of whole school. Her pride was severely damaged and decided to try and survive in the

forest for a week. "That will show them" she thought. She got lost and was the first to set up a camp.

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The next to arrive was Jack, who was brought here by his own mother. He worked at his master's plantation for years until one of the other slaves grew tired of the

master's orders. She impaled him with a rake, and Jacob ran, knowing that if he was to be seen outside of the master's land, he would be put to death for escaping. Running away was his only option.

That was when I arrived, but you will hear all about my story later.

After me came Aiden. Nerd is not really the word to describe him. He... struggles with social interaction. He was born different from the rest. Where he comes from everyone is obsessed with knowledge, but they are all too scared to test any of their hypotheses. That's where he comes in. He was always top of the class. Mainly because he was one of the only ones to do the work. Everyone else in the class just reasoned that they didn't need to learn because they never need to test anything, they just have to come up with a good idea one day. One day Aiden was approached by his teacher. She wanted them to go together outside the boundaries to try and test some of the hypotheses that they had come up with. One day his teacher disappeared. Presumably taken by the police for "Radical thinking." Aiden's judgement impaired by this tragedy, he decided to leave anyway. To continue his teachers wishes.

I'm not gonna sugarcoat this one. Johnny is an idiot. He arrived to us by screaming his head off at the sight of a "small white furry ball with big teeth." We later concluded that this was a rabbit. He was bullied back at school for being dumb, and abused by his father because he did not understand. His family had spent almost all their money trying to help Johnny, but it did nothing and now their family was living in poverty. His dad blamed him for this. Rejected by both his family, friends and society as a whole, he decided to run because he'd prefer to be alone than live anywhere near them.

And now, onto me. Where I come from, crime is so accepted it is basically you steal or you die. The inadequate police only step in if it affects them. My parents worked for an underground group trying to overthrow the dictator of our tribe. My father was selected to assassinate him, if he didn't, the rebels would kill my father. He did it. My father became a killer. The police were searching for him. My parents had to leave, without me. The government decided that if they couldn't have my father, the son was good enough. I was pointlessly tortured for my father's

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As sleep fell on our little group, we all had the same question on all of our minds

We were friends now, but what about the morning?

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